

SEP 25 2006

Atty. Dkt. No. 023971-0422

REMARKS

The above amendments to the dependent claims are made pursuant to the Examiner's suggestions during the interview of September 12, 2006. Prior to this paper, claims 1-14 were pending. By this paper, Applicant does not add or cancel any claims. Therefore, claims 1-14 remain pending.

Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance for at least the reasons that follow.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks Examiner Lum-Vannucci for indicating that claims 2-5 contain allowable subject matter. Applicant previously amended these claims to place them into independent form by incorporating the recitations of claim 1, as last examined, therein.

Interview of September 12, 2006

Examiner Lum-Vannucci is thanked for extending the courtesy of an interview to Applicant's representatives on September 12, 2006, where the above amendments to the dependent claims were discussed.

In view of the Personal Interview held on September 12, 2006, Applicant submits that the Interview Summary (a copy of which is attached in Appendix A) provides a complete and proper recordation of the substance of the interview, per MPEP §713.04.

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Outstanding Rejections

Applicant submits that the claims are allowable for at least the reasons detailed in their previous Response of August 22, 2006, the contents of which are incorporated herein in their entirety.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

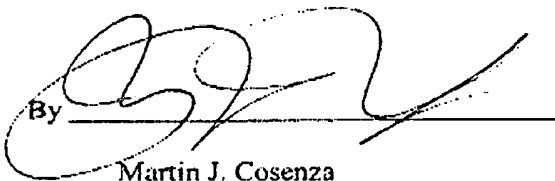
Examiner Lum-Vannucci is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

SEP 25, 2006
FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 295-4747
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

By


Martin J. Cosenza
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 48,892

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Appendix A

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Interview Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/849,181	YOKOTE, MASATSUGU	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Lee Lum	3611	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) L Lum - examiner.

(3) _____

(2) M. Cosenza - attorney.

(4) _____

Date of Interview: 12 September 2006.

Type: a) ☐ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference
 c) ☒ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☒ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☒ No.
 If Yes, brief description: _____

Claim(s) discussed: all

Identification of prior art discussed: _____

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☐ was reached. g) ☐ was not reached. h) ☒ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: Discussed new amendment filed 8/23/06. Examiner suggested that indep Claims 1, 8, 9 appeared broad, but further consideration is necessary. Examiner also noted that new dependent Claims 12-14 contained terms that were unclear: "lighter, heavier" with respect to a "steering operation". New indep Claims 2-7 appear to be allowable as they included subject matter previously noted to be allowable.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.


 Examiner's signature, if required